

ADVANCES IN MATHEMATICS 22, 129–130 (1976)

Book Reviews

R. GANDHI, *Presuppositions of Human Communication*, Oxford, 1974, 147 pp. A partly-line account of a recurrent theme of analytic philosophy. Not interesting unless you are one of them.

D. HUSEMOLLER, *Fibre Bundles*, Springer, 1975, 327 pp. Still the best introduction to the subject, now reprinted through the magnanimous foresight of the House of Springer, after the original publisher of the book bowed out of the scientific market.

B. MANDELBROT, *Les Objects Fractals*, Flammarion, 1975, 186 pp. Over the years, Mandelbrot has made himself the apostle of at least two ideas: stable laws with weird exponents, and fractional dimension. This book treats the second, with fervid imagination and unrelenting passion, and it succeeds in making a good case. It is gratifying to read about a new idea; it happens so rarely.

A. M. OLEVSKII, *Fourier Series with Respect to General Orthogonal Systems*, Springer, 1975, 136 pp. Thorough and easily accessible, centered around the work of Garsia on martingales and the special property of the Haar system. Honestly written.

D. R. FULKERSON, Ed., *Studies in Graph Theory*, Vol. 1, 199 pp.; Vol. 2, MAA, 1975, 413 pp. Graph theory, like lattice theory, is periodically chosen as a whipping boy by mathematicians in need of concealing their feelings of insecurity. The perusal of these well-written volumes should convince any impartial observer that concrete, definitive, directly applicable, permanent results such as the ones given here have an immeasurably greater scientific and pedagogical advantage than the fluffy, perishable generalities we all too often feed our victimized students.

I. I. GIHMAN AND A. V. SKOROHOD, *The Theory of Stochastic Processes*, II, Springer, 1975, 439 pp. Do the Russians know how to write with probabilistic feeling better than we do? On reading this exhaustive treatise on Markov processes, one is tempted to conclude in the affirmative. One pitfall of Western probabilists is excessive generality, which at times reduces their expositions to arid treatises in old-fashioned measure theory. But Russian probabilists seem less sold on the idea that probability is reducible to measure theory, an idea that is becoming more questionable every day.

N. GEORGESON-ROEGEN, *The Entropy Law and the Economic Process*, Harvard, 1971, 451 pp. Economics is too soft a science to allow itself the luxury of philosophizing: It might be too easy to confuse this kind of philosophy with the real thing. The cultured author of this long book is saved by an unusual display of philosophical background, and by the courage to call a spade—in this case Hegelian dialectics—a spade. Warmest congratulations.

A. R. ANDERSON *et al.*, Eds., *The Logical Enterprise*, Yale, 1975, 261 pp. A substantial collection of papers in those branches of logic which were, and are, cultivated by F. B. Fitch, for many years the Yale resident logician, to whom the volume is affectionately dedicated.